

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00076 140843Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W
-----014781 140847Z /11

R 140658Z JAN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5497
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0076

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, IZ, SZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI-SYRIAN RECONCILIATION AND MICHEL AFLAQ

REF: DAMASCUS 0054 (NOTAL)

1. IF IRAQ AND SYRIA ARE ABLE TO PATCH UP DIFFERENCES,
EVEN IF ONLY AS TACTICAL MEASURE AGAINST SADAT,
MAJOR LOSERS WOULD BE SYRIAN EMIGRES WHO HAVE ENJOYED
BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND SINECURES. ALTHOUGH THEIR
NUMBERS AND FREEDOM OF ACTION WERE REDUCED LAST OCTOBER
IN FAVOR OF IRAQI BAATHIS, ANTI-ASAD SYRIANS STILL
ENJOY A LARGE NUMBER OF SEATS ON NATIONAL COMMAND
AS WELL AS POSTIONS IN THE VARIOUS PARTY STAFFS AND
THE IRAQI MEDIA. MOST PROMINENT AMONG THEM IS MICHEL
AFLAQ, FOUNDER LEADER OF THE BAATH. AFLAQ HAS
CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED RECONCILIATION WITH SYRIAN LEADERS
HE VIEWS AS MILITARY USURPERS AND RENEGADES FROM
TRU FAITH OF THE BAATH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00076 140843Z

2. INFORMED SPECULATION HERE SUGGESTS THAT AFLAQ
WILL SOON LEAVE BAGHDAD, IF HE HAS NOT ALREADY DON SO,
AS ONE MAJOR STEP IN REMOVING OBSTACLES TO BETTER RELATIONS.
(FOR SOME WEEKS HE HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM PUBLIC VIEW, EITHER
FOR ILL HEALTH OR POLITICAL REASONS.) DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT
SPEAKS OF FRANCE AS MOST LIKELY NATION FOR HIS EXILE, A PROPER

RETIRMENT SPOT FOR A MAN WHO STUDIED AND DEVELOPED MUCH OF HIS POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY IN PARIS. ONE REPORT EVEN CLAIMS THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS SAFETY AND COMFORT.

3. FROM HERE, DIFFICULTIES LYING IN THE PATH OF RAPPROACHMENT APPEAR QUITE SERIOUS, AS MENTIONED REFTEL. PRESSURES GENERATED BY SADAT INITIATIVE ARE INDEED GREAT, HOWEVER, AND THEY WILL HAVE TO BE TO OVERCOME VAST GULF THAT CURRENTLY SEPARATES THE TWO COUNTRIES.
PECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA00076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780021-1186
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780163/aaaacbbh.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93a863e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 54
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3775039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI-SYRIAN RECONCILIATION AND MICHEL AFLAQ
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, IZ, SZ, (AFLAQ, MICHEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93a863e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014